

strides in addressing the Nation's budget deficit. When our founders sacrificed so much that America might be independent and free, we accepted a trust to preserve this Nation for future generations.

This conference report is a historic first step, and we must continue to stand tall through the entire reform process.

I will close with a list of 10 points, often attributed to Abraham Lincoln that I believe we should be mindful of as we consider reform of nearly every government program in the coming months:

First, you cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

Second, you cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

Third, you cannot help small men up by tearing big men down.

Fourth, you cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

Fifth, you cannot lift the wage-earner up by pulling the wage-payer down.

Sixth, you cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.

Seventh, you cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

Eighth, you cannot establish sound social security on borrowed money.

Ninth, you cannot build character and courage by taking away a man's initiative and independence, and

Tenth, you cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time controlled by the Senator from Wyoming has expired.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my understanding was that morning business allocated one-half hour to the Republican side, controlled by Senator THOMAS this morning, and then one-half hour to our side controlled by myself. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The order provided to the Chair was that the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was to be recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes, the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes, the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes, and the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN] recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

Mr. DORGAN. Was it to have been in that order? My understanding was that—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no specific sequence. That is the way in which it was provided.

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I do not want to complicate this by any means. I think that there is some legitimate confusion relative to the process here. I asked for morning business. I was told that my time, the 15 minutes, began at 9:30. It is just a little after 9:30. I do not want to belabor it. My only effort in coming over was that I have to chair a hearing at 10 o'clock. So I attempted to try to come over in order to make that. With the indulgence of my colleagues, with no objection, I prefer to make a brief statement and then go and open my hearing.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if I might just respond, I arrived at 9 o'clock and our caucus at the moment, our Democratic caucus, is meeting on regulatory reform. All of us have problems.

My understanding was that we were going to have one-half hour over there and one-half hour over here. If that was not locked in, I guess I would be willing to be flexible on that. But I say that I arrived here at 9 o'clock. I know the Senator from New Mexico is missing the same caucus that I am missing, and I very much did want to respond to some of the points in the budget.

The Senator from Alaska intends to take how long for his presentation?

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I will not take a full 15 minutes, in response in the Senator from North Dakota. I encourage the floor managers, or however the process works, if this could be alleviated perhaps. I am not being critical, but I appreciate the concern of my friend. We are both in the same situation. Maybe the best thing to do is for me to start and get out of here, and then I can yield to my friend from North Dakota the remaining time that I have.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I will not object to that. I hope that we will be able to sequence it in the future, if that side has 30 minutes, perhaps, if we have 30 minutes reserved, we would be recognized for the next 30 minutes. If the Senator from New Mexico has no objection, I would be happy to allow the Senator from Alaska to proceed at this point and assume the time following that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair thanks the Senator from North Dakota. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank my friend from North Dakota. I wish him a good day.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am going to use my time to speak on risk assessment. I had intended to do that at 10:30. However, the hearing which I have to chair, as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, is a joint hearing with the Environment and Public Works Committee on a very important and timely topic, and that is the Komi oilspill

which has taken place in Russia at this time as I speak. The significance of this spill is unprecedented in relationship to any spills that we have ever experienced previously. Approximately 400,000 barrels of oil per day are leaking from various pipelines in Russia. That equals twice the *Exxon Valdez* spill, which, of course, was one incident. This volume of 400,000 barrels a day is occurring each and every day. The joint committee that will be meeting today will be attempting to focus on this and generate notoriety and, hopefully, a plan to assist in cleanup and to ensure that this terrible, terrible tragedy does not continue.

My statement this morning, Mr. President, is to call attention to the reality that listening to some people in Congress, listening to some people in the executive branch, you might not think it, but I think those of us who have been listening understand that this town was given a very simple message last November. And that message is that it is time for the Federal Government to wake up and reform the way it does business.

It just so happens we now have bipartisan legislation to help point us in that direction. That legislation is the Comprehensive Regulatory Reform Act of 1995. Its purpose is to protect public health and safety and to protect the environment while sparing people, you and I and those out there, from the nasty side effects of overregulation. It is a statement in favor of freedom, common sense, and responsible government, and one more, and that is accountability.

From the air we breathe to the food we eat and the ground we walk on, Federal regulations govern almost every phase of our lives. Their stated purpose, of course, is to help make people healthier and safer by reducing exposure to a variety of risky substances and products and by regulating various activities.

In many cases, Mr. President, these goals are accomplished. However, in others, regulations focus on unsubstantiated or minute risks to health, safety or the environment, and end up wasting a lot of taxpayers' money and time that could be spent on more pressing problems. Worst of all, unnecessary regulations, duplication, take away our freedoms. Our freedoms are lost bit by bit by empowering bureaucrats in Washington to tell us what we can and cannot do and almost on a worst-case basis.

Last year, Mr. President, Americans spent an estimated \$647 billion on regulations. That is more than every element of the average person's budget except housing. Yes, that is even more—\$104 billion more, as a matter of fact—than America spent in paying its tax bill in 1994. But, unlike taxes and the other bills we pay, much of the costs of regulations are hidden in the price of goods and services, so most people do not know about their true costs to each of us.